

JUL 25 2003
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

SP
7-31-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **FUKUSHIMA, Hidetada et al.**

Group Art Unit: 2155

Serial No.: **09/900,490**

Examiner: **Ayaz R. SHEIKH**

Filed: **July 9, 2001**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: **4191**

For: **SYSTEM, METHOD, COMPUTER PROGRAM, AND RECORDING
MEDIUM FOR MACHINE-MANAGEMENT**

RECEIVED

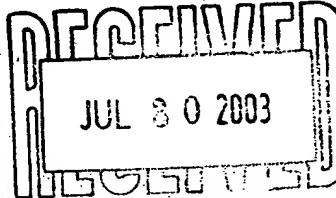
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

JUL 28 2003

Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:



July 25, 2003

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

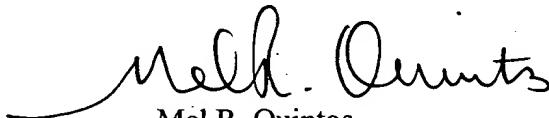
The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



Mel R. Quintos
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 31,898

MRQ/lrj
Atty. Docket No. **010866**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Enclosures: PTO-1449, References (10) and Partial European Search Report.



BEST AVAILABLE COPY

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No. 010866	Serial No. 09/900,490
	Applicant(s): FUKUSHIMA, Hidetada et al.	
	Filing Date: July 9, 2001	Group Art Unit: 2161

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA 5,737,227	Greenfield et al.	04/07/98	364	464.1	RECEIVED
_____	AB 5,754,451	Williams	05/19/98	364	551.01	JUL 28 2003
_____	AC 5,968,371	Verdegan et al.	10/19/99	210	739	Technology Center 2100
_____	AD 6,138,056	Hardesty et al.	10/24/00	700	174	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AE FR 2 729 799	07/26/96	France	No
_____	AF 2-141897	05/31/90	Japan	Abstract
_____	AG 62-276470	12/01/87	Japan	Abstract
_____	AH EP 0 836 159	04/15/98	European	Yes

OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AI	Partial European Search Report dated June 20, 2003.
_____	AJ	NAOKI URA ET AL.: "REMOTE MAINTENANCE FUNCTION FOR DISTRIBUTED CONTROL SYSTEM" ADVANCES IN INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL, INSTRUMENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA, RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, US, vol 48, no. PART 3, 1993, pages 1557-1564, XP000428426 ISSN: 1054-0032 * the whole document *
_____	AK	KUNZ J C ET AL: "SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATED VALUE-BASED MAINTENANCE PLANNING" IEEE EXPERT, IEEE INC. NEW YORK, US. vol. 11, no. 4, 1 August 1996 (1996-08-01), pages 35-44, XP000627015 ISSN: 0885-9000 *the whole document*

Examiner

Date Considered